ped with trichobothria hairs to detect wind currents. Mine certainly were good judges of the right conditions, there were no failures or false starts. In each case the wind speed was between 1 and 3 on the Beaufort Scale and the temperature between 15°C and 25°C. One great advantage they have over insects is that they can parachute high into the atmosphere where the low temperature would immobilise an insect, but they survive in a torpid state carried passively by the upper air currents, and with their powers of withstanding prolonged starvation, can cross the widest oceans. In fact many spiders are common to different continents, some carried by man, others for palaeological reasons, but some borne on the winds, where they fall prey to insectivorous birds, but some reach a congenial habitat and multiply. Unlike birds and butterflies, however, they are too small to be noticed and recorded, though they must often be raining down unseen. Maybe some are carried on birds' bodies, if they are not picked off and eaten, but this must be uncommon.

Summary Small spiders from temperate regions can be carried, passively, high in the atmosphere where insects cannot fly and in this way be transported enormous distances.

It is suggested that a number of loops of silk may be more often employed to form a parachute than one long strand. In the former case the weight of the spider's body is utilised to draw it out.

I should like to thank Mr. Paul Hillyard of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, for his assistance in preparing this paper.

THREE RARE MIGRANT SPECIES IN 1984 AT HAM STREET, KENT, INCLUDING SEMIOTHISA SIGNARIA HBN. – The evening of the 31st July 1984, in Longrope, Orlestone Forest, Ham Street, began rather cool and clear, but as the night wore on the temperature rose a little and by 1 a.m. (1st August), as well as many local specialities I had taken at m.v. light slightly worn single specimens of *Semiothisa signaria* Hbn. (female) and *Trisateles emortualis* D. & S. (male). My companion, Julian Abbott was rewarded with a splendid fresh *Enargia paleacea* Esp.

At the time of writing, 10 days later, the *S. signaria* lives on, being frequently supplied with honey and water and is ovipositing freely. Already 22 larvae have hatched and these have taken readily to Douglas Fir and Larch. With luck I shall issue further notes on their development in due course. – J. FENN, 4 Pearce's Close, Hockwold, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 4LU. [This is only the second record of occurrence in Britain of *S. signaria*, the first being that of a male taken in Essex on 20th June 1970, by R. Tomlinson (cf. *Ent. Rec.*, **86**: 195, plt. XVI, fig. 3). – J.M.C.-H.]